

his bed-fellow. Such is the character of the English check. Nor can we doubt that in Scotland, naturally a much poorer country,—a country, too, in the possession of at least as hard-hearted an aristocracy as that of the sister kingdom, and in which, if once thoroughly contaminated by the influence of a poor-law, pauperism must increase enormously,—some check at least equally severe will come to be devised. The atmosphere of the English poor-houses is tainting all England with unwholesome disaffection and discontent; it is making bitter everywhere the heart of the poor man against the middle-classes and the aristocracy; and, truly, no wonder. The poor-law bastilles at the last election furnished the grand topics of Chartist vituperation in England against the Whigs; and we are of opinion that the man requires to be a sanguine speculator indeed who ventures to surmise that their introduction into Scotland will have the effect of “sweetening the breath of society” there. The effect will be directly the reverse. The enactment of a Scottish poor-law must of necessity widen that gulf, so perilously broad already, which separates the upper from the lower classes.

There is one misguided and very numerous class on whom it must be brought peculiarly to bear, and whom we deeply pity. We are, we trust, friendly to Chartists, though determinedly hostile to Chartism. The principle is ruining thousands and tens of thousands of our working-men. It is an *ignis fatuus*, leading them astray in quest of an imaginary and unrealizable good, when, in many cases at least, some real good lies full within their reach, but of the very existence of which, blinded by the Chartist hallucination, they have no perception. Scotland was always a poor country, narrow in its resources, and at times grievously oppressed. It never yet succeeded in employing all its people. But in times when religion was prized, and education not neglected, the effects of the pressure were rather favourable than other-